

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 DRC-01

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R 082306Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2066

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 2666

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN PRCUREMENT OF LONG RANGE PATROL AIRCRAFT

1. TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL DEFENSE COLUMNIST, JOHN
BEST, REPORTED NOV 5 ON BASIS OF INTERVIEW WITH
DEFMIN RICHARDSON, THAT CANADIAN CABINET HAS "POSTPONED
INDEFINITLEY" CONSIDERATION OF WHICH CONTENDING FIRMS
WOULD BE CHOSEN TO BID ON LONG RANGE PATROL AIRCRAFT
(LRPA) CONTRACT. BEST SPECULATES THAT SCHEDULE TO
FIND REPLACEMENT FOR CANADA'S ARGUS HAS STARTED TO
SLIP SERIOUSLY. BEST REPORTS THAT PRICES TENDERED
BY CONTESTANTS WERE MUCH HIGHER THAN HAD BEEN
ANTICIPATED AND THAT PROCUREMENT OF LRPA MAY COST
CLOSER TO ONE BILLION DOLLARS RATHER THAN PREVIOUS
ESTIMATE OF 450 TO 750 MILLION. BEST REPORTS THAT
MINISTER RICHARDSON SAID THAT HE HAS DECIDED "TO TAKE
ANOTHER LOOK AT HIS RECOMMENDATION WHICH WOULD HAVE
NARROWED THE FIELD TO TWO CONTENDERS." BEST ALSO
REPORTS SPECULATION IN OTTAWA THAT LOCKHEED AND BOEING
ARE THE TWO MOST LIKELY CANDIDATES TO RECEIVE THE
LRPA CONTRACTS. BEST SPECULATES THAT RICHARDSON MAY
INCREASE THE FINAL LIST FROM TWO TO THREE FIRMS.

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WM OFFICE OF DEFENSE MINISTER RICHARDSON CONFIRMS THAT
CABINET CONSIDERATION OF LRPA CONTRACTS HAS BEEN DELAYED
"BECAUSE OF THE PRESS OF OTHER BUSINESS," BUT NOTES THAT
SOME UNSPECIFIED ASPECTS OF GLOBE AND MAIL STORY ARE
"INCORRECT."
SCHMIDT

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